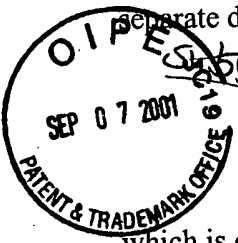


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims, without prejudice or disclaimer, to read as follows (pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked-up copy of the amended claims is enclosed as a separate document):



1. (Twice amended) A method of making a chimeric mouse, comprising:

a. creating an immunetolerant mouse which has a degenerated liver and which is deficient in T and B cells, and

b. transplanting xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes to repopulate the parenchyma of the degenerated liver, said xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes being infected with at least one compatible mammalian hepatitis virus.

8. (Twice amended) A chimeric mouse model system for hepatitis comprising an

immunetolerant mouse deficient in T and B cells having a degenerated liver parenchyma repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes, said xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes infected with a compatible mammalian hepatitis virus.

14. (Amended) The chimeric mouse model system of claim 13, wherein the source of the xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes is a woodchuck and the compatible mammalian hepatitis virus is Woodchuck Hepatitis Virus (WHV).

15. (Amended) A method for screening a test compound for anti-viral activity, comprising:

a. administering said test compound to an immunetolerant chimeric

C³ mouse deficient in T and B cells which has a degenerated liver parenchyma repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes and wherein the xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes are infected with at least one compatible mammalian hepatitis virus; and

b. assaying the level of replication of the virus.

C⁴ 23. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the source of the xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes is a woodchuck and the compatible mammalian hepatitis virus is Woodchuck Hepatitis Virus (WHV).

sub D⁴ 25. (Amended) A method for screening a test compound for anti-cancer activity, comprising:

C⁵ a. administering said test compound to an immunetolerant chimeric mouse deficient in T and B cells which has degenerated liver parenchyma repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes and wherein the xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes are infected with at least one compatible mammalian hepatitis virus; and
b. assaying the mice for the development of hepatocellular carcinoma in said mice.

C⁶ 35. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the source of the xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes is a woodchuck and the compatible mammalian hepatitis virus is Woodchuck Hepatitis Virus (WHV).

Please add the following new claims:

C⁷ sub D⁵ 37. A method of making a chimeric mouse, comprising:

a. creating an immunetolerant mouse, said immunetolerant mouse having a